



CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

RAMON A. ROJANO
Director

Dear Friend:

The City of Hartford's Grandparents Program is organizing its **4th Annual Grandparents Day Family Fair!** This event is dedicated to the thousands of kinship families in our great city and will take place on **Saturday, September 9, 2006 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Bushnell Park** by the carousel. *Grandparents Day Family Fair* is a day filled with family activities, games, arts & crafts, inflatable bouncers and much much more! This is an opportunity for families to spend quality time together, learn about programs and services within their community that can assist them with intervention services, support services, health screenings, youth programming, parenting support and education to name a few through interactive games and activities while fostering better communication, acceptance and bonding.

We are soliciting your participation and that of our local businesses to assist us in celebrating and educating our grandparents and relatives that are raising their kin children. With your participation we ask that your organization or business provide some type of interactive game or activity that will engage families and more importantly help them to remember your programming or business. Examples are, positive communication through art/cooking, managing anger through dance/music, bonding through play/crafts. Keep it simple but make it a lot of fun. We can help you come up with something innovative and exciting for your organization!

Over the years, working with grandparent headed families, it has become evident that once the children reach their pre adolescent and adolescent years they are faced with having to accept that their biological parents are unwilling or unable to care for them. For many, being abandoned, effects their self esteem and sense of self worth which often transfers to aggressive behavior, depression, poor school performance (at times being mislabeled as learning disabled), poor social and family relationships to name just a few. It is clear however that for many of these children they are in fact grieving - and as we know children grieve episodically meaning extreme behaviors can turn on and off like a light switch. They often ask themselves if they are loveable and test their grandparents to the extreme to confirm their lovability. Those who were born substance exposed or to depressed withdrawn parents often did not have the opportunity to attach to a caregiver who made them feel secure and safe causing them to have difficulty establishing trusting relationships. These children are in need of programs to help them feel secure while building on their self esteems, confidence, and character while learning life skills and managing their anger/grief.

Grandparents acknowledge that loving their grandchildren is not enough to mend the scars their grandchildren have. Grandparents want to enhance their parenting skills and knowledge so they are better prepared to meet the challenging needs of their grandchildren.

I am inviting all programs to consider participating in this event by having a booth to share the exceptional programs that are available to assist these children/youth and grandparents through their journey of self acceptance while overcoming the obstacles they are experiencing. Your program is important to our families.

All programs or volunteers interested in participating in the 4th Annual Grandparents Day Family Fair should call me, Elby at 547-1426 ext. 7572 or email me at egonzalezschwapp@hartford.gov.

There is no cost to participate in this event. Lunch will be provided to agencies participating. We look forward to hearing back from you and receiving your support for this family event!!!

With Warm Regards,

Elby Gonzalez-Schwapp
Program Manager



Grandparents Day Family Fair
Saturday, September 9, 2006
11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Bushnell Park (by the Carousel)
Hartford, CT

We look forward to your participation! Please complete and return the following to Elby Gonzalez-Schwapp, Department of Health and Human Services 2 Holcomb Street Hartford, CT 06112 , fax to 722-6851 or email to egonzalezschwapp@hartford.gov.

Organization Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

() Yes, I will be participating in this event. I will share information about the following:

And will offer _____ as an activity or contribution to the fair. I
will need _____ tables and _____ chairs.

() Yes, I can volunteer for your event.

() No, I will be unable to participate in your event, however keep me on your list for next year.

Many thanks in advance for your participation and contributions!!

